

Message Text

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ACTION ORM-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 SR-02 SCA-01 AID-05 SY-04

NEA-09 L-02 CIAE-00 FBIE-00 INSE-00 NSAE-00 INR-07

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R 211651Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2959

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 0545

GENEVA FOR CARLIN; FRANKFURT FOR INS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, BE

SUBJECT: EX-SOVIET REFUGEES IN BELGIUM

REF: BRUSSELS 418

1. EXPECTED BELGIAN REQUEST FOR INFORMATION (PARA 3 REFTEL)
ON STATUS OF USG PROCESSING OF EX-SOVIET REFUGEES NOW LOCATED
IN BELGIUM WAS MADE JANUARY 21.

2. WE TOOK ADVANTAGE OF JAMES CARLIN'S PRESENCE IN BRUSSELS TO
LET HIM BRIEF BELGIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS. (VAN DYCK,
VANHOUTTEGHEM AND DESY) ON USRP. HE PUT REFUGEES SITUATION IN
BELGIUM IN PERSPECTIVE OF REFUGEE SITUATION IN WESTERN EUROPE
AND REASSURED BELGIANS ON QUESTIONS PERTAINING TO USRP ROLE IN TREAT-
MENT OF REFUGEES. HIS PRESENTATION AND RESPONSE TO THEIR
QUESTIONS WAS HIGHLY APPRECIATED.

3. BELGIANS, HOWEVER, CLEARLY CONCERNED FOR THE FUTURE AND ARE
CONSIDERING WAYS AND MEANS BY WHICH BELGIUM CAN AVOID BECOMING
EVEN MORE OF A STOPPING OFF POINT THAN IT ALREADY IS FOR EX-SOVIET
JEWS WHO ARE SEEKING PERMANENT RESETTLEMENT OTHER THAN IN ISRAEL.

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THEIR IMMEDIATE ISSUE IS NOW HOW TO CONTROL GROWING INFLUX OF ISRAELI

PASSPORT HOLDERS, WHO MAY APPLY FOR IMMIGRANT STATUS IN OTHER COUNTRIES FROM THE TEMPORARY REFUGE IN BELGIM. THERE MAY BE 400 PERSONS IN THIS CATEGORY NOW IN BELGIUM AND SOME ARE DOUBTLESS WITHOUT FUNDS. (ONE VOLAG HAS A LIST OF APPROXIMATELY 200 ISRAELI PASSPORT HOLDERS INELIGIBLE FOR USRP HAVING LEFT ISRAEL AFTER OCTOBER CUT-OFF DATE.) ADMINISTRATIVE MEANS TAKEN PREVIOUSLY TO PREVENT ADDITIONAL INFLUX OF HOLDERS OF ISRAELI LAISSEZ-PASSE APPEAR TO BE EFFECTIVE.

4. ANOTHER BELGIAN CONCERN, TO WHICH THEY RETURNED REPEATEDLY, IS DATE OF START OF ONWARD MOVEMENT TO U.S. OF THOSE BEING PROCESSED BY INS, WHO ARE CURRENTLY BEING SUPPORTED BY USRP. WE REMINDED BELGIANS THAT THIS WAS UP TO INS, AND NOT SOMETHING THAT EITHER THE USRP OR THE EMBASSY COULD DECIDE. BELGIANS TOLD US AGAIN THAT ISSUE OF HOW TO TREAT THESE REFUGEES HAD BEEN DISCUSSED AT COUNCIL OF MINISTERS LEVEL, BUT THAT SEVERE ADMINISTRATIVE MEASURE (I.E. EXPULSION) HAD BEEN HELD IN ABEYANCE IN VIEW OF MUCH APPRECIATED
D
USG EFFORTS IN THIS REGARDS. THEY FURTHER TOLD US THAT COUNCIL OF MINISTERS WOULD RETURN TO THIS QUESTION AT SOME POINT. FOREGOING WAS PASSED TO US AS INFORMATION, NOT REPEAT NOT, IN OUR OPINION, AS FORM OF PRESSURE TO MAKE USG ACT FASTER. WE SHOULD, HOWEVER, UNDERSTAND THE HIGH LEVEL AT WHICH AND THE SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH BELGIAN GOVERNMENT REGARDS ISSUE. RENNER

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